

Written Testimony of Tony Totty
President, United Auto Workers Local 14
Before the Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth
Roundtable on Good Pay for Hard Work: Apprenticeships, Workforce Development, and
Diverse Pathways to High-Quality Jobs

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Thank you Chairman Himes, Ranking Member Steil and Members of the Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to be here today. My name is Tony Totty, and I am the President of UAW Local 14 in Toledo Ohio. A true way to stop economic disparity is to first keep the jobs we currently have. I'm from the auto industry and it's imperative that we maintain our jobs through the transition to an electric vehicle future. Keeping all the jobs in our industry allows us to fund our schools. Toledo Public Schools has many STEM and vocational programs. These programs result in students receiving college credits in high school. The business community helps guide the direction of the education. For instance, we have a new trades program, the building trades academy, that will address the shortage in trades across our region and country. Toledo just launched a Premed and health science academy with its inaugural class. There also is a new maritime academy that will teach students commerce on the lakes. In addition to this, a new educator academy has been set up to address the national teacher shortage. Lastly, we are trying to build an EV maintenance and repair school that will give high school students a diploma and a mechanics certification upon graduation. This came about when we heard the needs of local auto dealerships that said they are currently short traditional mechanics and did not know where they would get EV mechanics from. Because of the other training I previously stated the opportunity costs of those programs led to a lack of funding for the EV program. We are still looking for funding for the facility. We plan on fully utilizing the facility. During the day, TPS students would occupy it and, in the afternoon, and evening current internal combustion engine mechanics, unemployed and underemployment people and any displaced auto workers would be trained. This would be a great a great pilot program to get behind. We already have a commitment from the teachers union and management to work together on the expertise needed for teacher selection. There are many opportunities in the new EV world. When we replaced the horse and buggy with automobiles, many new jobs and innovations came from the change. We are in that moment again.

Thank you.